



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Awards \$137,864 Grant to University of California, Davis and the Markham Elementary School to Improve Teaching and Learning

January 2004 --- The University of California, Davis will receive a three-year grant of \$137,864 in federal monies that have been earmarked for improving the quality of teaching. A partnership with the Markham Elementary School, the goal of this project is improving the low performance of students in mathematics. Markham Elementary serves an extremely diverse student population, with many students receiving free and reduced lunches and a large percentage of students designated English Language Learners.

According to the proposal, one of the primary goals of the project is to improve the achievement levels of children by developing an environment at the school where teachers learn about students' mathematical thinking and hone questioning strategies. Further, the project is expected to increase teachers' ability to align their instructional strategies with the California state standards.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission has been administering federal funds to improve teacher professional development since 1984. This year the Commission has made awards totaling over \$10 million in the *Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program*.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. Regarding this program, you may contact Rebecca Ambrose, University of California Davis, School of Education, at 530-754-4831; or Michelle Dally, Markham Elementary School, at 707-453-6230.